BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF PHARMACY

RE:

Application for Nonresident Pharmacy License of

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY LICENSE

WOODLAND HILLS PHARMACY,

Applicant

On August 26, 2020, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy ("Board") voted to deny the application for nonresident pharmacy license submitted by Algunas Inc., doing business as Woodland Hills Pharmacy ("Applicant"), 20631 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 305, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.18 and 155A.13A(4), this Notice of Intent to Deny License is issued.

A. LEGAL GROUNDS

- 1. Applicants for an Iowa nonresident pharmacy license must apply for a license in accordance with Iowa Code section 155A.13A and 657 IAC 19.
- 2. The Board may refuse to issue or renew a license for any grounds under which the Board may impose discipline. Iowa Code § 155A.13A(4).
- 3. The Board may refuse to issue a license for having a license revoked or suspended or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of another state for conduct substantially equivalent to any of the grounds for disciplinary action in Iowa. *See* Iowa Code § 155A.13A(5)(d), 657 IAC 19.11(5), and 657 IAC 36.6(30).
- 4. The Board may refuse to issue a license for any violation of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or federal regulations promulgated under the Act, with a warning letter issued by the United States food and drug administration being conclusive evidence of a violation. *See* Iowa Code § 155A.13A(5)(a) and 657 IAC 19.11(1).

B. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 5. On June 15, 2020, the Board received a nonresident pharmacy license application from Woodland Hills Pharmacy.
- 6. Effective March 12, 2018, Applicant was disciplined by its home state of California through a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order adopted by the California Board of Pharmacy. The California Order revoked Applicant's pharmacy license, but stayed the revocation and placed the pharmacy license on probation for a period of four years, subject to several terms.

7. The California Order resolved a pending accusation alleging compounding violations. The compounding violations would also violate the Board's compounding rules and would constitute grounds for discipline under Iowa law. *See* Iowa Code § 155A.13A(5)(d), 657 IAC 19.4(3), 657 IAC 19.11(5), 657 IAC 20, and 657 IAC 36.6(21).

8. Applicant's owner and pharmacist in charge, Steven Levin, was also disciplined as part of the California Order.

9. Applicant has been disciplined by licensing authorities in several states.

10. On July 17, 2017, the United States food and drug administration issued a warning letter to Applicant based on violations of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

11. On July 6, 2020, the California Board of Pharmacy issued an accusation against Applicant, which seeks to revoke or suspend Applicant's pharmacy license and Mr. Levin's pharmacist license.

C. APPEAL RIGHTS

You may appeal this Notice by submitting a written appeal via email to Amanda.Woltz@iowa.gov by September 25, 2020. Your appeal should describe the reasons why you feel your application should not be denied. If a timely appeal is received, a contested case hearing will be initiated and conducted according to the procedures set forth in 657 IAC 35.

If a written appeal is not timely received, this Notice of Intent to Deny License will become final, and your application for an Iowa nonresident pharmacy license will be DENIED effective September 26, 2020.

Date issued: August 26, 2020

Andrew Funk, Pharm.D., Executive Director

IOWA BOARD OF PHARMACY